

I myself have been the user of a smaller ISP which would definitely be impacted if Bellsouth has their way and the FCC stops regulating broadband. Our local telecommunications provider (SBC) also acts as an ISP for some DSL customers. Unfortunately, because most customers do not know about alternative ISPs in the area, SBC is able to sell subpar service. With my ISP I am able to get static IP addresses and access to unfiltered newgroups- something that SBC lacks. With SBC, customers are forced to use PPPoE which causes their IP address to cycle every few hours and causes disconnection during this timeframe. With my current ISP, Sonic.net, I have reliable and fast connections. As a customer to this smaller ISP, I am afraid that releasing regulation over broadband will hurt my choices and cost me more money in the long run. This move could potentially stifle freedom of speech by allowing one outlet per region to control where we may go on the internet. SBC is already blocking their newsgroups. Who knows what else they could do if all competition is eliminated.